RAJ\ \ SABHA

Tuesday, the 11th August, 1987/20 *Sravana,* 1909 (Safca)

The House met at eleven of the clock, The Deputy Chairman in the Chair. %

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Alleged intrusion by BSF personnel into Bangla desh Territory

*201. PROF. C LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be plea;ed to state:

(a) what is Go rernment's reaction to the allegation nade by the Bangladesh Governni'ei t about the intru-sioh by Border iecurity Force personnel into Bangl :desh territory on two occasions in ' le month of June, 1987; and

(b) what are tie details of the. dialogue with th» Bangladesh Government in this n gard?

THE MINISTEE ' OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) *G>* vernment had rejected the Banga: lesh Government's allegations that the Border Security Force had intrude i into Bangladesh territory twice in June, 1987.

(b) It has beer conveyed to the Bangladesh Goven ment that making such unsubstapt ited allegations vitiates the atmosphere ..of"friendly relations between he two countries.

/PROF* C. LAKS [MANNA: Madam uty Chairman, the Government s stated that they have rejected ' 'he allegations 6 Bangladesh but iangladesh goes o. making such allegations. One pos ible way in "which it could have beer avoided was to fulfil what has bee promised by the Government to this House and the other House that there shall be fencing along the border between India and Bangladesh and that there shall be - watch towers. In fact, about two years back, the then Minister assured the House that as soon as the rainy OeasOn is over, the work will be taken up. I would like to know from the hon. Minister .what progress has been made in this connection which perhaps would have avoided the possibility of such allegations. When will the Government hope to complete both the ' fencing as well as the watch towers?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Madam Deputy Chairman, the question of fencing i3 an entirely different matter. This question of the hon. Member relates to a particular incident about which we have conveyed our views to the Bangladesh Government. Now, with regard to the fencing, if he tables another question, we will be very happy to answer it.

PROF. C. jLAKSHMANNA: Madam Deputy Chairman, I don't agree with the hon. Minister's contention that these two are unconnected. They were very much connected but it is the Ministers's privilege-to think BO. However, I would like t0 know whether there has'been any firing on an Indian national by the Bangladesh border forces roughly about the same time.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Madam, in the details that I have, we have no particular mention of this matter but if the hon'ble Member wishes, we will find out and I will convey the information to him.

SHRI NARAYAN KAR: I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether this allegation of the Bangladesh Government is a plea on the part ,of the Bangladesh Government t0 delay the repatriation of Chakma refugees from Tripura to Bangladesh and if he thinks so, what steps have been taken by the Government of India to settle the Chakma problem at the highest political level?

SHRl K. NATWAR SINGH; Madam", we are in touch with the Bangladesh authoritie$_3$ with regard to the Chakma problem but here again, if I may respectfully submit, we should confine ourselves to the matter .Jfabed in this question.

Child Labour

*202. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: 1

SHRI VI.THALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated number of child labour in the country at present;

(b) how many of them are working in factories, mines and other hazardous occupations;

(c) whether the Child Labour Bill passed by Parliament has been imp lemented to prevent the pernicious social evil of exploitation of children;

(d) whether th$_e$ ban on employment of children below 14 years in specified occupations has been implemented; and

(e) if so, whether the Union Government have set up any rehabilitation centres for the exploited children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRtf.OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on th$_e$ Table of the House.

Statement

According to the Planning Commission's estimates the total number of child workers in th$_e$ country a« on March, 198%was 17.58 million.

tThe question wa.$_s$ actually asked on the floor of the House by Prof. B. Ramachandra Rao.

No accurate figures of children working in factories, mines and other hazardous occupations are available. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 is in force with effect from 23rd December, 1986. The State Governments have been addressed to enforce the Child Labour Act strictly.

The Schedule to'the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 specifically include$_3$ the processes and occupations in which child labour is banned. Along with the coming into force of the Act, the ban on employment of children in specific occupations has also come into effect.

The Union Government have not so far directly set ^{U}P ^{any} centres for the rehabilitation of child labour. However, it has given financial assis-' tance to various voluntary organisations to undertake projects to benefit and rehabilitate child labour. Government propose to announce a National Child Labour Policy, which will,$_{\%}$ among other things, incorporate an element of su6h rehabilitation.

PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Madam Deputy Chairman, the answer given to this question puts the responsibility entirely on the State Government to implement the Act which we have passed in November last year and which came into force on 23rd December. I would like to know whether the Government ha$_3$ taken any concrete steps during the last few months to se$_e$ whether this practice particularly of employing children below 14 year in hazardous jobs' has been done away with Even after passing the Act, million of people in match factories in Siva-kasi, glass factories in Ferozabad and power mills in Biwandi, they are continuing unabated and the Bill had made no impact. I would like to know from th$_e$ Minister whether any- monitoring mechanism has been set up to see whether the Bill is implemented, as it is against Article 24 of th$_e$ Constitution of India.